CHRISTMAS.

CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVITIES.

Splendid Decorations in the Churches.

THE SERVICES TO-MORROW.

Calamities of War and Blessings of Peace.

CONTRAST

Claims of the Poor and Duties of the Rich.

BALLS. AMUSEMENTS, THEATRES,

Christmas is very justly regarded as the most holy eason of the year. More than any other it reminds man of the great and sciemn obligations he is under to and vigor and a share of the world's goods. It brings decreed. It speaks to him of his duties and respon as been preached Christmas comes round at a time when the snow falls, when the frosts are biting, when the extent of the wide, wild sea. We reminded that the Divine Founder of Christhat He was obliged, in his very earliest infancy, to enthize with the sorrowful, and that sympathy has smitted down to our time through countless e the divine assurance that the poor and the af-ed should be always with us. They are with us; and we will. They are without food; they are badly provided with raiment. They seek the shelter of precarious and miserable homes. They are often exposed to snow, frost, biting cold and howling tempests. Shall not those who live in good houses, sit by pleasant firesides and take themselves merry over the fat of the land, think of olate ones who have no friends to cheer, no relawes to succor them at this holy, joyous time?

eign travel, the patronage of literature and the on, joins the family circle, and tries to make all suse, gives himself a few days of repose and essays to out the most deserving objects of his benevolence.

eral points and by the hard study of dry authorities as nd books and endeavors to do his part in honor

ng the day that should be most respected by ristians, and, in the exercise of a generous spirit, af-

alth of the nation by his sturdy, honest toil, saves out his earnings something that is to be specially devoted

The boy who is away from home, at school, waits with ed, that he may pack up his trunk and be off to

ments close upon the anniversary of the festival will dawn upon us to-morrow with the most bril-18th his enemies, he is not to forget the hallowed princimen of Christianity which teach him to be generous and forgiving to a fallen, beaten foe. In other climes he is, at this moment, after the hard strife of the day, sitof war, the clash of arms, the cries of the made and the shricks of the dying, his mind must include the merry times which friends at home are ading at Christman. Absence makes his heart "grow for." He pictures to himself the pleasant scenes of youth. He sees, as it were, the cottage where he born, and which, in after years, when he had arrived san's estate, he had learned to associate with the at tender and affectionate sentiments. He looks upon helly and ivy—upon the anow, which is trampled up he cottage door—he sees the crowds of ardent worthe windows of the dwelling within which are sit be longs for a return to the quiet scenes where mirth happiness hold their sway. But, though he is away the that the day is not far distant when he, too, will be being the crewds who, pursuing a career of peaceful in-being, have the best opportunity of celebrating the time lich, by the common consent of all Christendom, is best becomed and revered.

Now, happily, peace prevails throughout the wide ex-cent of the republic. The terrible sound of war is no larger heard within our borders. The soldier has quitted the gory field and returned to the rich pastures and the fruitful gardens in which he labors with manly energy to himself and those who are dependent upon him or support. Or he has turned his steps towards the rich alous cities, where he mingles in the pursuit of negt employment with the industrious throng who are constantly adding to the greatness and wealth of

It is at such a time that the people can best show their appreciation of the pure and delightful enjoyments of thristmas. Every person will celebrate it according to his means, and increase the pleasure he feels in doing se by giving what aid he can to the poor and to those whose

LAST CHRISTMAS charough every home, though, as the result proves, it did not shake the faith of our people in the final triumph of their cause; but so deep was the general sorrow felt for the thousands of the dead and wounded who had engiained the national flag on many a well fought field, that they could not enter into all the heartiness of enjoyment as they will do to-morrow. To-morrow, with pea pentored, with liberty maintained, with the national au-Set over all portions of the United States, our people husiastically celebrate the great festival, and will of the abundance of their means. The promptings of their bearis, the blessings of peace, the growing prosperity in which they are participators, will be so many independents to them to act that graceful part which took fur in proving to the humble and the lowly that they shall not be forgotten.

PREPARATIONS

bound by conscience to do; and we will connect the festival with the highest honor that can be paid it if we remember the poor, who have claims upon our sympathies
and benevolence.

Yesterday Christmas trees greeted the view at every
step. They were being purchased everywhere by thousands. Venders of these articles who had established
depots for their sale on Broadway and in other streets
were kept busy enough by their numerous customers. The
proprietors of stores and their assistants were "up and
stirring." They were doing a splendid trade. The toy
marts were last evening illed with juveniles making
purchases of horses, dogs, whips, tops, "Jacks-in-thebox," little guns and pistols, dolls, dolls' houses, and
everything calculated to please their taste. They were
delighted beyond measure as the day approached upon
which they were to show each other the gifts of friends
who had been long absent, and of parents who look to
them as the pride of their house.

It is during this time that all the hilarity of children is
brought into full play, and even persons of mature years
are tempted to join in the sports of their younger friends.
It is in this way that the Christmas is really enjoyed, for
it results in producing tender, refined feelings and chariable actions which, more than at any other festival,
should be displayed during Christmas.

Bubloined are given accounts of the different preparations for the celebration of the festival to-morrow:—

EPISCOPAL CHURCHES.

In this church suitable arrangements have been made. Close to the communion table, and not far from the magnificent stained glass window, an arch of evergreens, surmounted by a cross, has been erected. Other portions of the sacred edifice have been decorated with wreaths and flowers. Green branches have been twined around the pulpit. The whole appearance of the building is quite in keeping with its occlesiastical character. It is a structure of which Americans may be justly admitted by the same of illustrious Americans, who had devoted themselves to the advancement of the hotor and glory of their country. To-morrow morning service will commence at eleven o'clock. It will open with a carol or the choir, accompanied by the two organs and echoed by the bells. The music will include Venite and Psalms, Te Deum and Jubilate, Boyce, in A., the Anthem; Recitative from Hundel's "Mossah," "There were shopherds:" Solos, by Masters Ehrlich and Toedt, and Mr. S. D. Mayer; Chorus, "Gloria," from Mozart's twelfth Mass. There will also be a bymn, sermou and communion service.

The following chimes will be rung on Christmas morning:—

1. Ringing the changes on eight bells.
2. Christmas Carol—Once in Royal David's City.
3. Christmas Carol—Hight, bright in Silver Light.
4. Christmas Carol—Watchman, tell us of the Night.
5. Christmas Carol—Angels from the Realms of Glory.
6. Hymn—Quiet, Lord, my Froward Heart.

ST. PARU'S CHURCH.

This structure, which is regarded with great veneration on account of the associations connected with it, is decorated in a style that reflects the highest credit on those who have had the conduct of the arrangements. The chandeliers are covered with wreaths of laurel. A device, which immediately attracts the notice of the visitor, is the irefoil, a Latin cross and a circular emblem of eternity. The panels are ornamented with balsam Washington's pew is decked out with evergreens. Before service begins a chant will be sung by the children of the Sunday school connected with the church.

81. John's Chapel.

The most striking decorations in this edifice are a number of well executed monograms. Surrounding an arch at the alter are the words "Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to men."

THEFITY CHAPEL.

The decorations in this chapel are simple but elegant. The porch, the entrance and the aisle seem to be one mass of fresh and beautiful foliage.

GRACK CHURCH.

It is expected that a new anthem will be sung in this

mass of fresh and beautiful foliage.

GRACE CHURCH.

It is expected that a new anthem will be sung in this church to-morrow morning. We learn that a son of the late Bishop Potter will deliver a sermon at the morning service.

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AT SI. LUKE'S CINCKES

the Rev. Dr. Tuttle will preach to-morrow morning. The service will be preceded by carols which are to be sung by the children.

In the other Episcopal churches, including St. Ann's church for deaf mutes, Church of the Holy Communion, Church of the Redemption, Church of the Holy Trinity, St. Clement's, St. Peter's, St. Michael's, St. Thomas', &c., there will be services appropriate to the day. Were all these described even in the briefest manner, it would absorb more space than can be afforded this morning. Suffice to say that in all these temples of worship the preparations do infinite credit to those who have been instrumental in getting them up.

Service commences in this church at half-past ten o'clock. A fine selection of music will be performed. Mr. Joseph P. Jardine presides at the organ with his usual ability.

This spacious and handsomely constructed chur ot be inferior to any of its neighbors in regard elebration of the Christmas services.

METHODIST AND PRESENTERIAN CHURCHES. In these churches the festival will be ushered in susual thanksgiving and prayer. ROMAN CATHOLIC CRURCHES.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES.
ST. PATRICE'S CATHODAL.
This church is beautifully ornamented. One hundred and fifty candles will be lighted upon the alitar, and in several parts of the church lights will be fixed in the form of stars, each star consisting of ten or twelve candles. Golden candlesticks are to adorn the alitar, which will be festooned with laces and natural flewers. The side altars are to be dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Pontifical high masses commence at five e'clock, and at rontinear night masses commence as two occock, and at half-past ten o'clock, the Archbishop, Most Rev. Dr. McCloskey, officiating, attended by the clergymen of the charch. The sermon at half-past ten o'clock mass will be preached by the Rev. Father McNierney. An efficient cloric service is being arranged under the direction of the organist, Herr Schmidt.

organist, Herr Schmidt.

gr. STEPHEN'S,
in Twenty-eighth street, near Third avenue, is decorated in a tasteful manner with evergreens and flowers
The ornamentation has been conducted under the superintendence of the sister of the pastor, the Rev. Dr. Cum
nings, who has made avery necessary arrangement. [6]

mings, who has made every necessary arrangement for the eclebration of the ceremonies of the day.

ST. PRINDERT'S.

Rev. Father Mooney, pastor, has spared no trouble to render the decoration of the church all that it should be Gas jets, set in lilies, and wax candles will throw a blaz of light on the altar, the artistic arrangement of which cannot be excelled.

Fourteenth street. In this church preparations on a scale equal to those already mentioned are being carried out under the superintendence of the Rev. Plowden Morrogh.

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AT ST. PETER'S.

Barclay street, grand high mass will be celebrated at five o'clock in the morning, and again at half-past ten o'clock. At the last ceremony the choir will be under the direction of an efficient organist, and the music selected will be suitable for the day. Sermons descriptive of the great festival, and of the manner in which it should be honored, are to be preached by clergymen connected with the church.

CHURCH OF ST. TERESA, corner of Rutgers and Henry streets. For over twenty years this church had been the fashionable Presbyterian church of the city. It was purchased about two years ago by the Rev. Father Boyce, and now one of the most select Catholic congregations worship within its walls. Tomorrow morning solomn high mass will be sung at half-past four o'clock. At the Goopel there will be a sermon. Low masses are to be said at every intervening hour until half-past ten o'clock, when there will be again solemn high mass and a sermon. A collection will be taken up for the orphans. It has been arranged that music of a superior kind will be sung at the high masses. The following is included among the selections for the first mass at half-past four o'clock.—"Mercadante," and at the second solemn mass at half-past ten, Generali's grand mass in C, Mozart's Sanctus and Agnus Det, No. 1. Principal soprano, Madame E, W. Reville; principal contraite, Madame Colletti; principal tenor, Mr. Lockwood; baritone, hr. Marino; organist, Mr. J. R. Magrath.

AT THE JESUT'S CHUNCH

In Sixteenth street the orchestra of Theodore Thomas has been specially engaged for to-morrow. The mass to be performed is Mozard's No. 1. It is needless to early that everything connected with the celebration of the featural in this oburch will be in strict and solemn accordance with the gorgeous ceremonial of the Catholic church.

PREPARATIONS AMONG THE GEMMANS.

Wit

the concert was adjourned to next Saturday, at Irving Hall.

CHRISTMAS AMONG POOR CHILDREN.

The Children's Aid Society has under its care and protection thousands of poor, houseless and homeless children, many of whom are boot blacks, street sweepers, pedlers and sellers of newspapers, and who try to eko out an honest livelihood without being much of a burthen on the society in which they live. Others are little girls, orphans, or without a home, poorly clad in this trying weather, which requires warm garments to keep out the cold; more are compelled to wander about the thoroughfares without shoes in the slop and sludge of the melting mow, their parents—if they now have any—being very poor, and unable to provide them with the necessaries of life, while numbers are obliged every day to seek the shelter of miserable dwellings, where they experience the want of food and fuel. It is the object of the Children's Aid Society to "make Christmas day the happiest day in the year to these little unfortunates." A flysheet issued by the society says:—We propose in the NEWSBOY'S LODGING BOUSE, where during the next year, were about seven thousand.

pose in the NEWSBOY'S LODGING HOUSE,
where, during the past year, were about seven thousand different poor boys, to give a good dinner and to distribute clothing and shoes, and to fit out some for Western homes. In the GIRIS' LODGING HOUSE
—where have been nearly one thousand homeless girls in the past year—we desire to have a genial festival and give a happy time to those who have had few friends. In our

In our REFUGE FOR FRIENDLESS CHILDREN,
just opened on the corner of Twenty-fourth street and
Eighth avenue, we want to provide bedding, clothing and
shoes, and to give a good meal. In our
FRIENTRIAL SCHOOLS,
now numbering thirteen, with over two thousand children on the rolls, we hope—if the public supply the
means—to distribute over one thousand pairs of shoes,
clothing and little presents, and to give all a good repast. We shall fill up a party for the West, just after the
holidays, and for those homeless boys and girls, now
going out from the office at the rate of one hundred a
month, we need clothing and means for giving a home,
as our funds are very low. A single party sometimes
costs us \$1,000.

Will not

out of their superabundant means, supply the money to cheer the spirits and meet the wants of those poor friendless children, who must be always the care of the true and faithful Christian? The society would gladly accept clothing and food for the children, which will be sent for to the houses of the donors if requested.

may be sent (the houses of the donors if requested.

DONATIONS

may be sent (the object specified) either to the President,
William A. Booth, Esq., 95 Front street, or to the Treas

surer, J. E. Williams, Esq., Metropolitan National Bank,
108 Broadway, or to the Secretary, C. L. Brace, 11 Clinton Hall, Astor place, New York.

The news boys hold their festival at the News Boys'
Lodging House, 128 Fulton street, top floor, on Monday,
December 25, at swen o clock P. M. The children of

THE EAST RIVER SCHOOL,
at 132 East Fortisth street, will hold their festival at
their school room, on Tuesday, December 26, at halfpast one o'clock P. M. The

HUDSON RIVER SCHOOL.

corner of Baxter and Canal streets, at the school, on Thursday, January 4, at two colock P. M.

Will hold their festival on Thursday, January 4, at half-past seven o'clock P. M., at the House of Industry, 165 Worth street.

Worth street.

THE FIRST WARD SCHOOL,

50 Trinity place, near Rector street, will hold theirs at
the school, on Tuesday, January 9, at one o'clock P. M.
THE HAMBERSLEY STREET SCHOOL,

No. 204 Bleecker street, entrance on Cottage place, with
about two hundred and fifty children, have their festival
on Wedneeday, January 10, at half-past two o'clock,
P. M.

P. M.
THE GIRLS AT THE CIRLS' LODGING HOUSE,
205 Canal street, hold their festival on Thursday, Janua
Ty 11, at half-past seven o'clock, P. M. The
CHILDREN OF THE FIFTH WARD SCHOOL
Will have a festival at their school, 15 Lispenard street
on Friday, January 12, at two o'clock P. M.

on Friday, January 12, at two o'clock P. M.

THE ROTELS.

The proprietor of this house, Mr. Stetson, will, with his usual liberality, give a dinner to his employes and servants to-morrow. He will also treat them to a ball, which is to take place either on next Saturday or on Monday evening. This liberal and kind consideration on the part of Mr. Stetson towards his numerous employes deserves honorable mention, and we notice it accordingly. On making inquiries information was furnished that they would have no special festivities, though it is not unlikely that the guesta at the different establishments may get up some entertainments among themselves.

THE CONSULAR OFFICES.

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The offices of the British and other Consuls will be closed. The officials connected with these departments will be thus enabled to enjoy the holiday in common with the rest of the community, who, ceasing from the plodding toil of every day life, can appreciate the relaxation and amusement to be derived from an interval of real peace and repose.

The United States Treasury and all the other public departments under the control of the government will not be open for the discharge of regular business. Should there be occasion, the Custom House officers will attend for a few hours in the morning in their respective offices to effect the clearance of vessels, but beyond this no other employment will be entered upon. The government officials have not, as a body, made any special arrangements for the keeping of Christmas; therefore each one will have individually to make the most of his legal holiday.

Although the men connected with the Metropolitan Fire District have not been able to make any special arrangements for Christmas, owing to the nature of their duties, which require their constant attendance, they will be allowed every privilege consistent with a due regard for the public service, and permitted to enjoy themselves in every case where it is possible to allow them away from duty.

regard for the public service, and permitted to enjoy themselves in every case where it is possible to allow them away from duty.

THE TRADES—THE MARKETS.

Paying a visit yesterday to Jefferson Market, which has been ornamented with wreaths of overgreens after the custom of the season, great quantities of provisions of every kind were found exposed for sale. There seemed to have been quite a buttue among the turkey tribe. It would be difficult to imagine where all the turkeys came from. Upwards of five thousand of them must have been slaughtered and bought up. They were to be seen on every stall. It was quite amusing to behold messengers carryling of two or three of these fowl across his back, and the attendants were kept up to their work in a lively manier, as each customer had to be served with his "Christmas turkey" without delay. The price paid was about twenty-eight cause per pound. There was a large supply of prime beef, which brought thrity-five cents per pound. Pork, of prime quality, twenty-two cents per pound. There lay about the market in heaps, venson, sucking pigs, canvass-back ducks, black ducks, red heads, brants, wild fowl, geese, chickens, qualis, prairie hens, pariridges and wild pigeous, all of which brought good prices. The demand was large—far and away in excess of what it had been last year.

At Fulton market more was all the appearance—and more than that, the reality—of good business. A large stock of beef, muton, turkeys and fruit of every description was on sale to meet the requirements of all classes of buyers. Furchassers gathered into the stalls in throngs, and, after a brief inspection of the good things set before them, brought away baskets full or—rovisions, at prices that must have returned fair profits to the seiler.

Tompkins market should not be omitted. It opened yesterday morning at the early hour of five o'clock with an immense supply of almost everything that enters into human consumption, and its cleanly appearance elicited deserved praise from those who went there to buy

cenes were enacted. The supply in e the attendance of buyers numerous.

On Christmas Day, at abon, there will be exercises a the Union Home and School, located near Eighth ave nue, between Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth streets.

nue, between Fifty-seventh and Fifty-eighth streets.

A number of balls are announced to come off. "The Invincibles," a fashionable club, is determined not to be outdone in the celebration of the day and the occasion. They give their fourteenth soirée donaonte on Wednesday, the 28th inst., at 59 Fourteenth street, and everything promises that is shall eclipse the previous balls in brilliancy. The gentlemen composing the Invincibles are all of the highest respectability, and the motto of their club—"nos persumus einci"—is always followed out by them.

The following balls take place at the City Assembly Rooms in the ensuing week:—Americus Association, on Monday evening; ball of troop C, First regiment, Tuesday evening; Ball of troop C, First regiment, Tuesday evening; Manhattan Freemason Lodge, Wednesday evening; Dirigo Lodge, Thursday evening; Exempt Live Cak Engine Company, Friday evening

In the Union Assembly Rooms the subjoined list of balls has been announced for next week:—Hudson Barber and Hairdressers' Association, Monday evening; Company G, Eleventh regiment, Tuesday evening; Empire City Guard, Wendesday evening; Coopers' Club, Thursday gyantas; Kanmas Independent Club. Friday

evening. The ball of the Union Assembly takes place on the evening of New Year's Day.

The balls at Brookes' Assembly Room for next week have been arranged as follows:—Dashaway Social Club, Monday evening; Sheriff Coterie, on Thursday evening.

Five balls come off next week at Jones' Assembly Rooms. They take place as subjoined:—Santa Claus Association, Monday evening; Marion Society Club, Tuesday evening; Empire Social Club, Wednesday evening; Vandyck Base Ball Club, Thursday evening; Matigan Association, Friday evening.

THE COURTS.

No business is to be transacted to-morrow in the courts which will be closed in honor of the festival.

THE CITY HALL.

The Mayor may probably attend in the City Hall in he morning for a short time for the transaction of such business as cannot be delayed; but the city officials will be enabled to enjoy the holiday.

The managers of the majority of the many attractive nd well regulated places of amusement which now ments before they are called on to preside in the family circle, or remove the gifts of the good old Santa Claus

GEORGE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS. orge Christy will give a grand matinee at the new o'clock in the afternoon. The programme pro melody and fun. A crowded house will be astonished and amazed. The Black Statue will be performed, as well as the other diversified and elegant pieces for which the Fifth Avenue Opera House evenings are now so fa

The Christmas Day matinee at this popular establish nent will be given at half-past one o'clock in the after noon. Mr. Chanfrau will repeat his wonderful imper constion of Sam, and the entire company will be out. Mr. Chanfrau's engagement is drawing to a close, and seats at the Broadway are secured many days in advance

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE. A grand matinee will be given at this neat and elegant establishment at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon of Christmas Day. The very exciting and attractive drama, the Demon's Revel, will be played, engaging the entire strength of the company. The bill contains all the other amusing pieces which attract such crowds to the house in the evenings. Tony Pastor intends a gala matinee, and will be patronized by a galaxy of beauty.

THE NEW NATIONAL CIRCUS. to this establishment Mr. Montpellier has determined to this establishment Mr. Montpellier has determined that his magnificent troupe shall perform on Christmas Day, at half-past ten o'clock in the forencen and at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon, in addition to their usual evening appearance. All the new stars engaged at the Circus will be out at the matinees to-morrow. George Derous, the Man Monkey, will be the leading character in the very laughable afterpiece, entitled The Mischlevous Monkey. Mr. Willie Dutton, said to be the greatest bareback rider in the world, will make his first appearance. The cavalcade of the Circus will make a really gorgeous display.

THE THORPE BROTHERS.

At the new music hall, corper of Grand and Crosby streets, the Thorpe Brothers intend to astonish their patrons with very wonderful and amusing performances in magic at two christmas Day matiness, to be held at half-past ten o'clock in the morning and at two o'clock in the afternoon. Evening performances at the usual hour.

HARRY LESLIE.

This wonderful performer on the tight rope will exhibit at the Theatre Comique, Nos. 718 and 720 Broadway, on Christman Day, at two o'clock in the afternoon.

or for pleasure cannot but be forcibly struck with the ity. For the last week the good people of the City of Churches have been making unusual preparations for

more in the pleasures of anticipation than in the thing the appearance of Brooklyn at this time we describe New York, only on a smaller scale. The life, bustle and busy din, the flowing tide of human existence, and in every trait and feature the City of Churches partake of the same distinguishing characteristics as New York. This week the Brooklynites seem to have specially the holidays assume a quiet aspect. On the other hand, go where you will in the streets and thoroughfares the air reverberates with the hum of happy voices resulting

waning moon in comparison with their waxing splendor now. What a mystery is that wilderness of beautiful things which now fill their windows! The initiated in of the world and even the spirit rappings, but how the Brooklyn storekeepers get all the wonderful things in

At Chichester's Pond. Myrtle avenue, there will be a grand time.

Christmas is an institution in Brooklys. It raises each boy and girl half an inch. You see them grow almost before your very eyes. How they enjoy themselves, the little greatures! It is joy to see them. Lots of presents from unexpected quarters! Holiday gifu are showered upon them. If a man is tight all the year round in his pecuniary affairs he seems pteased to squander it at the coming of Christmas, feeling that he must give a little to the young. It is assesson of mirth and culturary and extravagance, that is really the spice of Christmas. It seasons with its anticipations and realizations the rest of the year.

Charity, we would say fit conclusion, can be made a Christmas amusement of. We should remember those who in this inclement season have no meat, nor drink, nor coal, nor any of those things that are really necessities of life. There are thousands in our cities whom Providence has deprived of sight, of their linbs, or of other functions, standing as ominous signs for us to do our duty.

whom Providence has deprived of sight, of their links, or of other functions, standing as ominous signs for us to do our duty.

Christmas will be a peculiar one in many respects. One year ago no star of hope adorned the sky; on the contrary, dark clouds obscured the political horizon, and the government was preparing for renewed martial efforts for a more vigorous prosecution of the then existing rabellion. The utternances of our wissest statesmen gave to the country no encouraging words for an early peace. To-day our armies are dishanded; peace—that glorious word—has been brought to the nation, tranquillity restored to our dresides, and the gallant soldiers who went forth to battloder the country and escaped the perils of war are with us, and will gather in the family circles to-morrow. The whole nation has cause for rejoicing, and we hesitate not to say that grateful hearts will cheerfully repeat the Christmas anthem sung by the angel choir over the plains of Bethelenen two thousand years ago:—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will towards men."

THE BRITISH PROVINCES.

Rebel Consignment of Ten Thousand Dollars' Worth of United States Letter Stamps—Their Discovery in a Canadian Custom House-Legal Action for Their

In August last the American government received in rmation of the consignment in Liverpool, by the Confederate agents, of \$10,000 in American three cent stamps to Boyd & Arthurs, of this city. Mr. Sharratt, Thurston, got out an injunction upon them. They were found in the Custom House in bond. It is supposed the tamps were captured by the pirate Florida. The case will soon be argued in court.

templates resigning unless Mr. Brown recalls his resignation. The defeat of the Ministry and its policy is almost

The Irrepressible Gravitation from Canada to the States.

[From the Toronto Leader, Dec. 21.]
One experiences a misgled feeling of satisfaction and regret upon glancing over the emigration statistics for the year 1866. As compared with last year they are as

fire broke out in the rag store No. 10 Gouverneur stip owned by Daniel Sweeny. The flames spread rapidly each four story brick buildings, were totally destroyed. The roof of the two story and attic dwelling house No. The roof of the two story and attic dwelling house No. 409 Water street was also damaged about \$1,500. It is owned by J. K. Jessup, and is insured in the Relief Insurance Company. Mr. Sweeny estimatos his loss on stock at about \$20,000; insured for \$8,000 in the New York, People's and other companies.

Nos. 6, 8 and, 10 Gouverneur silp are owned by Mr. Sweeny. The loss will be about \$12,000; insured for \$16,000 in the Tradesmen, and other companies.

Nos. 6 and 5 were occupied by O'Donnell & Co., dealers in barrels. Their loss will be about \$5,900; insured for \$1,500 in the Hamilton, Harmony and other companies.

companies.

Samuel Cox and Michael Dunn, who resided in No.

409 Water street, have sustained some damage to their
forniture by water and removal. They are insured in
the Stuyvesant Insurance Company for \$400 and \$300

the say was some damage by water to the grocery stock of F. Minken, No. 413 Water street. He is insured in the General Insurance Office for \$2,000. Conrad Brinkord, on the second floor, is also insured for \$600 in the same

company.

The origin of the fire is not known at present. From statements made to H. O. Baker, Assistant Fire Marshal, it appears that a noise like that of an explosion was heard about one o'clock, and that Mr. Brinkord, in the adjoining house, supposed burglars were in the rag store, and had blown the iron safe open with powder; but, fearing that if he went to the street he would be shot by them, he did not give an alarm.

The safe having fallen in the ruins it has been impossible as yet to ascertain if burglars have tampered with the safe. Fire Marshal Baker has the matter under investigation.

143 FULTON STREET, NEW YORK, Dec. 28, 1865.

White authorizing the energy and perseverance exercised by the Metropolitan Fire Department and the Insurance Patrol, permit me to render to the Fire Department of the New York Harako my sincere thanks

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BERALD.

The undersigned, occupants of the building No. 141
Fulton street, hereby tender their thanks to the employes of the Herald establishment for their promptness and efficiency in controlling the fire at No. 143 on the night of the 22d inst., feeling assured that without their intervention the fire would not have been confined to the present named limits.

JAMES POOLE & CO.

MILLER & VAIL.

CLARK & BALDWIN.

Naw York, Dec. 23, 1865. Fire in Chicago.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23, 1865.

A fire on the corner of Main and Second streets, in Fond du Lac, on Thursday night, destroyed between forty and fifty thousand dollars' worth of property. Insurance

The Naval Court of Inquiry which has been in session n the Brooklyn Navy Yard for the last week, of which Hassler Judge Advocate, was specially convened to investigate the cause of the return of the sloop-of-war Monongahela, which recently returned from sea in a disabled condition. The court closed their labors yesterday, but the result of their deliberations has not been made public. NEW SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS.

Isaac B. Vedder, Esq., Special Inspector of the Navy Department, is now engaged in inaugurating a new sys-tem of nary accounts, by which it is expected to pre-vent any future frauds on the government. He has visted the Navy Yards at Philadelphia and Boston, where the new system has been successfully introduced, and is now discharging the same duty at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

NAVAL CHANGES.

Commander Henry Rolando has been ordered to take command of the gunboat Florida, now at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Lieutenant Commander Reed Worden is detached from duly at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and ordered to the command of the gunboat Bienville.

News from Fortress Monroe. Fortress Monroe, Dec. 23, 1865. The steamer Chamberlain has arrived from New York. She had the ship Queen in tow, but encountered heavy gales about the 21st inst., when she broke away from the ship off Absecom Light. The ship has not been heard from since.

FORTHER MONROR, Dec. 23, 1865.
The naval steamer De Soto left for Washington to-day
The Eleventh Connection regiment left for home las

WASHINGTON.

PROGRESS OF RESTORATION.

Withdrawal of the Provisional Government from North Carolina.

Response of Governor Orr to Secretary Seward's Telegram of Recognition.

He Declares His Purpose to Aid in Upholding the Supremacy of the Wational Government.

NGTON, Dec. 23, 1865. THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWN PROM NORTH CAROLINA.

The Secretary of State has, by direction of President

Johnson, addressed a letter to Provisional Governor Holden, of North Carolina, relieving him from his trust, fidelity, the loyalty and discretion which have marked his administration of affairs in that State. A copy of the letter has been sent to the Governor elect of North Carolina, with the Mader of the co-operation of the government of the United States whenever it may be found necessary in effecting the early restoration and the permanent prosperity and welfare of the State over cial communications are similar, with the exception of names, to those recently addressed to the Governors

RESPONSE OF GOVERNOR ORK. OF SOUTH CAROLINA. TO SECRETARY SEWARD'S LETTER RESTORING THE STATE GOVERNMENT."

The following response from Governor Orr has been

Hon. W. H. SEWARD, Secretary of State:—
The Legislature adjourned vesterday at noon. Governor Perry has returned to his home in Greenville. Your despatch has been forwarded to him by mail. It will be very gratifying to the people of South Carolina that her government has been entrusted to officers of their own selection. In their name, I thank you for the tender of co-operation of the government of the United States when found necessary in effecting the early restoration and permanent prosperity and welfare of the State.

The State.

You may be assured of my unalterable purpose to aid in upholding the supremacy of the laws of the United States, and in advancing the honor, interest and prosperity of a common country.

JAMES L. ORR, Governor of South Carolina.

NEGRO SUFFRAGE ELECTION IN THE DISTRICT. Lewis Ciephane, Collector of Internal Revenue; Z. C. Robbins, Register of Wills, and J. H. Crossman, pave Court against the Mayor of Washington, the members of the City Councils and the Register of this city, to rethe expenses of the recent election to take the sense the citizens in relation to negro soffrage The complainants take the ground that there is no author rity given in the municipal charter for the holding of certain the views of the residents in reference to the extension of the elective franchise to persons of color in spondents appear on Tuesday next to show cause why an injunction should not issue as prayed for.

A petition to Congress is in circulation to-day for sigpatures in favor of negro suffrage.

NATIONAL BANK CIRCULATION. The circulation of the national banks was increased by an issue of upwards of four millions of dollars during the past week. The total circulation issued now reaches

nearly two hundred and thirty-four millions. THE COUNTERPEITING OF TREASURY NOTES. Such positive evidence in the matter of counterfeiting few days as will fully explode the charges that fraud has been practised in the printing department of the Treasury have been coupled with these charges in such proving and exploding them. While it may be shown that a fearful percentage of the currency and coopons is

simply excellent counterfeit. They propose to estab lish this fact during holiday week.

The Signal Corps of the army, which was organized, it was supposed, with a view to permanency so long as we maintained a regular army, is almost broken up. About a dozen efficient only remain, and these expect to lose their heads in due course. The testimony of every prominent general of the Union armies in favor of the Signal Corps has weighed as nothing against the efforts of the War Secretary and his former assistant to slaughter them. The effort will be made, however, to have the Signat Corps

VILLANOUS VIRGINIANS. Virginians along the line of railroad between this city and Richmond are represented as being inimical to quiet, unmolested, travel between the two cities. In consequence of their indulgence in such little freaks as putting crosstles on the track, tearing up rails, &c., the night trains were withdrawn several days ago. The few on quiet spirits among these people who are bringing such

THE PARDON BUSINESS. The issuance of pardons has almost entirely ceased. About a dozen requisitions were made out to-day for North Carolina cases. THE PACIFIC BAILBOAD.

interested parties to have the Secretary of the Treasury issue United States bonds to the Pacific Railroad Com road west from Lawrence, Kansas. Protests have also been entered against their issue, and the whole matter is

The holidays promise to pass very quietly in Washing-ton. No great balls or extensive dinner parties are yet heard of. A large number of the celebrities of the capital have departed to spend Christmas in the adjacent cities. The dulness of the season in Washington is a

THE HOLIDAYS IN WASHINGTON.

matter of universal comment.

In most of the government departments to day the They will not be required to report for duty sgain until Tuesday morning. NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION AT THE WEITE GOUSE, The first public reception at the White House will take place on New Year's Day. It is understood that

there will be no other until after the reassembling of

Secretary Stanton returned to the city last evening from his visit to Ohio. THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

It is well known that Secretary Harlan is not expect ing to remain at the head of the Interior Department long after the advent of the new year, as ambition for Congressional honors woo him back to Iowa. A very strong opinion is beginning to obtain ground in po cal circles that the vacancy will be filled by Bon. Alex.

SANDT HOOR, Dec. 23, 1866. Two barks are ashore, on the Upper Middle One is

black one and the other has painted ports. A tile to alongside of each.

The mail train on the North Carolina road rau of the Concord yesterday, killing J. A. White, express metager, and Mr. Oata, the baggage master. Other unstical largest the acceptant are unknown.